

Overcomers Outreach

“Bridging the Gap Between 12 Step Recovery Groups and Churches”

September 2014 Newsletter



From the Director – The other evening at our regular weekly meeting, the group began to say the “Serenity Prayer” in unison and I became deeply aware of the presence of something powerful and eternal. The group was unified in worship and praise to God. We met to share with each other about our lives and to learn more about God and His Will for us.

Our program of 12 Step recovery is a path that starts with our own trials and self-examination, then points us to God as our solution, and moves us toward Him through restitution and continued service to others.

I lift up my eyes to the hills-where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1-2

When we look to God for guidance and power, our hope in unseen things grows and soon our trust grows to faith. We walk in His Spirit and begin to know His love. We begin to learn of things eternal, to grow in them, and to start living life in the Spirit.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Cor. 13:13

As we receive, we provide, and as we provide, we receive. Through our service to others we share our faith, hope, and love as we received it in our own times of need. In this way, God equips us and we can bless others. Looking to God, we are directed to help others so that we may be healed, and we are blessed. The blessings repeat, the eternal is manifest, and He is glorified.

... for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Phil. 2:13

OO is a humble service ministry that seeks to share God's wisdom as found in the Holy Bible and apply the 12 Steps of recovery as a method to achieve a Spirit led life.

Jeff M

Events

Convoy of Hope

Overcomers Outreach of Sapulpa participated in the Convoy of Hope held at Creek County Fairgrounds near Sapulpa, OK. “C of H” is an annual outreach to all citizens of Creek County. It is a coalition of churches, businesses and local government agencies. Services are provided free of charge to all participants. Free groceries, haircuts, and backpacks filled with school supplies were available. Also included were vision and health screenings, a kid's zone with carnival games, live Christian music and a community services tent.



Facilitator BJ Hall (in the yellow FREED shirt) and volunteer

We made well over 100 contacts with people who either needed our services or knew someone who did.

Pray for us as we attempt to reach out to those affected by addictions and/or compulsive behaviors.

BJ Hall

2nd Annual "Fun in Recovery" Retreat

Was held September 12th-14th at the Hoblitzelle Campground, Midlothian, TX. A \$20 fee included all food and activities- speakers, workshops, pony rides, fishing, boating, and other events. Camping was also available.

Truckload Food Giveaway

Overcomers House in Snellville, GA held a food giveaway event Sep 20th for those in need of food assistance.

Upcoming

2nd Anniversary Party

Power Source Group of Santa Paula Friday, Sep 26th, 7pm, at the Century 21 Building - 123 10th St., Santa Paula, CA. For more details, call: Marion S (805)524-0350

Annual Gratitude Dinner

Monday November 24, 2014 at the San Fernando Bible Chapel, 1300 Glenoaks Blvd., San Fernando, CA, 91394. Starts 6:30 pm.

The Mailbox –

Australia writes:

So much to thank God for – we had a very good 12 steps language day last Friday, we had a terrific annual leaders day on Saturday with good decisions made for the year ahead. We have a new group in Redfern starting Friday mornings at the end of July – please pray for this especially.

The city OO group last night – we had a whole bible study come in from one church who were all affected by addiction one way or another, we had visitors from Brisbane. We had other newcomers – over 30 people.

Thank God that best of all the city group has a core of members who've gotten sober with OO's help and are now there to serve others – this is an overwhelming joy to me – so many addicts just take and run but these members give me so much encouragement each month – the success of the city group is largely due to them consistently showing up.

Love, Pen

Nicaragua writes:

We will be praying for the September Retreat. May God continue blessing you.

Rigoberto R

UK writes:

Hi Jeff, Thanks for keeping us up to date on events and overcomers big book. The meeting in Glasgow has not been on for a while but praying that we get a new meeting on the go. I am still the contact number.

We went up to the OO meeting in Troon last night. Great to see Richard and Trish and the folks there. We hope to visit more in the future. We came out feeling spiritually refreshed and blessed. Love and Much Shalom.

Brian H

Italy writes:

Dear friends in recovery,

I am Elisa from Italy and I am a member of the group "12 steps for Christians". We bought the book "Twelve Steps for Christians" through the web and, after asking for the copyrights, we translated it into Italian language and we are using it as a recovery tool during our meetings.

Our meetings are held in an Evangelical church in Milan and we would like to have your help concerning Public Information: how do you inform other churches and members of traditional 12 steps groups about your activities and meetings? Thank you for your support. We look forward to receiving your suggestions. Kind regards,
Elisa and "12 steps for Christians" group

Germany writes:

Hi Jeff - Summer is hot here with us and we hope you all are quite well ... some news about me and my way of recovery in God's Almighty Hand.

Three months ago I had the ultimate experience of being powerless - a stroke.

But with His help it went well. The more we live with full attention in His Spirit the more we can see His Hand and Direction and our common way to Him - Praise the Lord!

In Oct. we will start a gathering of friends in Fulda with Boris help. With His Power we travel more and more through our country trying to connect with people ... one day, one step in God's Will & Time. Amen.

May He bless and keep you all! Our greetings & prayers to you.

Rolf & Uta

Tennessee writes:

Back in the early 90's we had a meeting in Loveland co. From there we spent time doing missionary work in Brazil & Israel. We moved to Clarksville in 2012, then spent time connecting to the local AA. We started this meeting on my wife's 34 birthday. We met in AA back in 1982. By the grace of God I'll have 34 years this Thanksgiving.

Our first meeting had four from AA, 1 from OA, and 1 from AI-non. Our vision is to grow to 15 to 20. Then I'll talk to local pastors about training some of their members who are currently in 12

step programs. We would then plant a meeting in another church. This way our Pastors can send people to a safe place. Their stories would be safer at another church. It's going to be a fun work. Shalom

Red

Iowa writes:

Thank you so much for your assistance. I'm looking forward to watching our Lord touch the lives of His people in our city. I'm so very thankful that God has blessed us with the O.O. ministry. Thanks again for all you do!

Ben writes:

No Alcohol in 22 years but I started having cramping in my bowels so my Dr. prescribed pain killers that I have been addicted to for 22 years now. I've heard about a savior called Jesus Christ. Is there anyone out there that is willing to share Jesus Christ with me and tell me how He helped them?



Not always pretty, but God always meets us where we are!

May B writes:

I was a workaholic, overweight and an approval seeker. I depended on my achievements, food, and shopping, rather than on my Savior and Lord. I hid my fear, anger and confusion under the mask of hypocrisy. But my life started falling apart. In my desperation I saw Jesus in the rooms of recovering people in San Francisco. They were like tax collectors, prostitutes and sinners flocking around Jesus. I visited SF frequently for my recovery.

Yet my bigger recovery from co-dependency started after I had gotten married to Ronnie who is sober from alcohol for 28 years now. I left my job in Japan and moved to South London 11 and a half years ago. Having OO meeting at our church together, I became more aware of my brokenness and wounds. By

making amends (which was visiting my family in Japan every year), my guilt and shame were taken away. I am a new creation now!

I am seeking God's kingdom and His will more than ever. I should recognize the worthless work in my life, and get comforted and content in what God has called me to do. So I'd better continue being an overcomer, by examining myself, confessing sins and getting through the embarrassment here now rather than at the judgment seat of Christ. Our Lord Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life! Amen!

This January we started another OO meeting in Holy Trinity Brompton in central London.

Welcome new groups:

Welcome to our newest groups: Shawano, WI, Springfield, MO, Des Moines, IA, West Valley, UT, Brunswick, GA, St. Petersburg, FL, Green Creek, NJ, Clarksville, TN, and Dalton, GA. We have had over 38 new groups start over the past year.

Office News

We have had good response to the request for meeting information as we continue to work on updates to our online directory. We are asking group members to please look at the information listed for their group and email changes if needed. There is a link at the bottom of the directory page for this. Corrections can also be phoned in. Thank you for your help.

We hope to have 500 "likes" on our [Face Book](#) page soon. Visit the page for posts and devotionals, and be sure to share any group news or events.

Interest in our weekly [Phone Meeting](#) has returned. We still need leaders, and so it is "off and on" for now. Just call and check in to see if others are on, Thursdays 6:30pm Pacific time. If you would like to start a meeting on a different night or time, the number is available for use, and a suggested format and guidelines are on the website. Let the office know and we will post the time on the website. These meetings can really help those who don't have a face to face meeting nearby. For more information, just give us a call.

The [Online Workshop](#) project continues to develop. We have collected "snippets" of information

on The Oxford Group, Akron Number one group, AA founders, early 12 step recovery methods and movements. We hope to raise interest in (and awareness of) roots and principles found in recovery literature.

Our blog site – [The Bridge](#) – is a great place to share online and a good resource for some of our literature.

Our [Group Network](#) link provides helpful information for starting, growing, and improving group attendance or outreach to the community. A discussion of our Group Traditions and helpful forms, like bookmarks, group information cards, court cards, and other useful templates are on this site, too.

Our website is averaging over 500 visitors a week. About 85% are new visitors, and the average time spent viewing is almost 5 minutes. We average 1500 page views a week.



“Seeking the Truth”

Happy Birthday/Anniversary -

The following people have recently celebrated milestones in recovery: Maryann V, Whittier, CA, 6yrs, Rick H, Burley, ID, 12yrs, Jeff M, Whittier, CA, 12yrs, Jennifer B, Lockport, IL, 13yrs, Helen R, Fountain Valley, CA, 14yrs, David T, St. Helens, OR, 16yrs, Shareon H, Mack's Inn, ID, 25yrs, Judy H, Cathedral City, CA, 32yrs, Bette K, Simi Valley, CA, 33yrs, and Louie L, San Fernando, CA, 43yrs. They made donations (\$1 for each year of their recovery) to the Central Office to express their gratitude and help us “carry the message”.

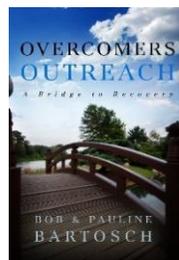
The following groups celebrated anniversaries recently: “Power Source” group, Santa Paula, CA, 2yrs, Yorba Linda, CA, 24yrs, and La Grange, IL, 25yrs. These groups make regular 7th tradition donations to the Central Office and continue, through their love and support, to help many people.

If you or your group would like to be added to our list, please visit our

[Birthday Page](#) or call the Central Office for details.

Literature –

Our OO “big book”, **A Bridge to Recovery**, is now self-published, which means we can offer the book to all at a much lower cost. The book can be used for a “book study” meeting. With guidelines, formats, 36 stories of recovery, and the history of the start and growth of the early Overcomers Outreach groups, this is a “must read” for everyone seeking recovery. New prices start at \$12 with volume discounts. Visit our [Books](#) page in our online shop, where we also offer discounts by the case for the Life Recovery Bible in soft cover and Spanish editions.



We now have wall posters - “12 Steps with Scriptures” and “OO 12 Traditions”. They are 20 inches wide and 30 inches long, with dark green letters on white vinyl, with hanging grommets. Contact the office by phone or email for further details.

Office Fundraising Campaign

The Central Office needs support, so we are asking a donation for our laminated bookmarks featuring the Serenity Prayer on one side and the Twelve Steps on the back. A suggested donation of \$1 per bookmark, or any amount, would be most helpful. Just let us know how many you or your group would like when you make the donation, [online](#), by phone, or mail. We also have pens available. Your gift will help many others and any amount will help and is deeply appreciated.



Expansion and updates to the **Steps and Standards** study guide are nearing completion. By adding inventory questions for thought and relevant Bible passages for study, deeper understanding and increased

knowledge of scripture can be gained. We also have the **Revised Group Traditions Guide** (traditions only) or the **Steps, Standards, and Traditions Guide** (which is also under revision).

From our Steps and Standards guide: Third Standard: Love

Love is “giving of ourselves” and unless we do, our progress will be lost. When we offer love, we offer our life; are we prepared to give it? When someone offers us love, they offer their life; have we the grace to receive it? When love is offered, God is there; have we received Him? The will to love is God's will.

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
1 John 4:7-8

But the joy of receiving can never match the real thrill of giving. Love is a poor man's beginning toward God. We receive understanding and love from strangers and we make progress as we in turn give it to new acquaintances. It's as simple as that. We receive love from God and give it away so that we can receive more to give even more.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, peace, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23

As His love flows through us, we bear the fruit of the Spirit as a witness to His Glory. We continue to set right past wrongs wherever possible to allow His love to work through us. It is through giving that we receive.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. John 3:16-17

And God commands us to love one another as He has loved us.

A Prayer for Direction

We want to please God by serving family, church, fellowship, or others, but get caught up in the “how to do” instead of the “what to do” and we lose sight of the “why we do”. Indecision, worry, and haste are all symptoms of losing sight of both our goal and our role. We sometimes find ourselves trying to go in different directions and wind up getting nowhere. We seem to be travelling in circles, finding ourselves “back where we started” due to overloaded schedules or unforeseen events. *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”* Matthew 7:7

Could it be that simple? Ask in prayer, seek in quiet time, knock in service and love for others? Let's try it!

Heavenly Father, We come before your throne of Grace to thank you for Your providence. It is by your hand that our needs are met, always. Help us Lord to look to You first and always for guidance. Help us to know and follow the wisdom of Your Word. We ask our paths to be to Your Glory and our steps to be guided by the love of Jesus as we seek to do Your Will in His Name.

Amen

If you would like to donate to Overcomers Outreach, Inc. to help defray the cost of this newsletter as well as other operating expenses, please visit our website overcomersoutreach.org or send to Overcomers Outreach, 12828 Acheson Dr., Whittier, CA 90601. All donations are tax deductible. To be added to our mailing list, or removed from it, please so indicate, along with your donation, or call us at (800)310-3001. You can also email us at info@overcomersoutreach.org and we will be happy to accommodate your request. We also welcome any news articles or testimonies you would care to submit for future newsletters. God Bless

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